

# IN THE BEGINNING



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Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
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## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 16-No. 61

January, 1983

Lester A. Harding, Editor

### Editor's Notes.-

If there is a red cross in the box above that means that your subscription has expired. It is a great help to the editor if your subscription is kept current.

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With this issue, No. 61, we are starting the sixteenth year of IN THE BEGINNING. We hope it will be as popular as some of the others. The last issue, No. 60 was perhaps the most in demand of any other one we have put out. The story of the Mulsow Family was a very popular one. It was quite an interesting story for the editor to get together as we "grew up" with some from each of those families.

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Our cover picture rather speaks for itself as being the village of Burt, Kans. The writer was born just over a mile due north of this store and lived for over 50 years about three and a half miles from it. We do not know just what year this was taken, but sometime in the 1950's. The pump in the well at the corner of the porch, this well was only about 3 or 4 feet across, dug through limestone. The gasoline pump at the other end of the porch shows what make of gasoline used.

"Saturday night at the old Burt Store", has been the top topic of tales we have told in the "Prairie Life" column of the Yates Center News, over the years. As a boy we spent many hours around the old store, especially can we remember the "sugar candy" that was sold there back in the years that Forrest and India Randall ran the store. The writer was one of India (Mrs. Forrest) Randall's "pet's", and she always remembered me with some of that candy. That has been quite a few years ago. Years later on Saturday nights when the Modern Woodman of America had quite a camp there, meeting every other Saturday night.

There were three of us boys, my cousin, Cleo Harding, Ray McKinney and myself had quite a "weakness" for getting into trouble. I was the youngest and the smallest but I usually thought up the trouble we got into. Maybe one reason was that about that time I started reading the book, "Peck's Bad Boy".

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**WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Organized March, 1965

The regular September meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held at the 107 Inn, Tuesday evening Sept. 28, 1982, with a 7 o'clock dinner. The President Kenneth Stockebrand and wife Barbara gave the program telling of their recent trip to the World's Fair at Knoxville, Tenn., and other places in the Smokie Mountains.

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The Historical Society meeting for November was held on Monday evening, November 15. The meeting had been set a week early because of the Thanksgiving Day activities and a day early in the week. There were 63 present for the fine dinner. Angela Lynn and wife Sarah presented the program with colored slides and comments on their trip to Switzerland and mountain climbing, especially reaching the top peak of the Matterhorn.

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**IN MEMORIAN**

**Leslie E. Stockebrand                    87                    October 15, 1982**

Mr. Stockebrand was born and lived his entire life in Woodson County. He had been a member of the Woodson County Historical Society for several years and held a Life Membership.

\* \* \* \* \*

Perhaps this is as good a place as any to remind those who have regular memberships to the Historical Society that now is a good time to pay those dues. To our readers who do not belong to the Historical Society that membership dues of \$2.00 a year are about as reasonable as to belong to any other organization, and is for a good cause.

We might add that if anyone does not want to bother with paying every year that the Life Membership is still \$25.00. Whether you will be able to attend meetings or not, it is for a good cause. We know from experience that a paid up membership is quite a boost to the moral of the officers and those trying to keep this organization and the Museum a success. There has been quite a lot of favorable comments on the Woodson County Historical Museum. It is considered one of the neatest and inviting museums in Kansas.

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Join and Support  
**WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Life Membership \$25.00**

**Regular \$2.00**

## DR. ALLEN RICHARD McCARTNEY —

The man that was perhaps the first practicing physician in Neosho Falls and Woodson County was Dr. Allen R. McCartney, although in three different histories we find one name's him as coming in 1857, one in 1858 one in 1859. we are taking the 1858 date as that seems the most likely. McCartney was born in Marion County, Ind., Jan. 14, 1838. He attended a seminary at Leavenworth, Ind., also graduating from the Ohio Medical College, coming direct to Woodson County, Kansas, and located at Neosho Falls.

While only 20 years old, he commenced his medical profession and opened a small drug store with his practice. Dr. McCartney was listed as one young man not to leave Neosho Falls during the Civil War. However, he was given the rank of Lieutenant in the Medical Corps. His main task was to attend to Indians that were loyal to the U.S. Government during and after the war was over. His captain in this was Alex K. Phelon, that we will mention later. Dr. McCartney was not in Neosho Falls long, he was besides his medical practice, active in politics and civic affairs.

In 1861, Allen McCartney was elected as District Clerk of Woodson County, in 1862 he was elected as State Representative. Also in 1862 he was postmaster of Neosho Falls.

Settlers coming into this county prior to 1860 could not get a deed for the land that they had settled, due to this land being a part of the New York Indian Reservation. The town of Neosho Falls had evidently been surveyed during 1860. How they were chosen is not clear, but on November 19, 1860, Jame Crane, Probate Judge in and for Woodson County, Kansas Territory, granted to John D. Coulter and Allen McCartney a Trust Deed for the following real estate; S.W. quarter of the S.W. quarter of Sec. 28; S.E. quarter of the S.E. quarter of Sec. 29; E. half N.E. quarter, N.E. quarter of N.E. quarter of S.E. quarter of Sec. 33; N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, Twp. 23, R. 17, being the townsite of Neosho Falls.

The (Grant) in trust for the several uses and benefit of the occupants of the town of Neosho Falls according to their respective interests, according to the acts of Congress. The transaction was before S. W. Hoffman, Notary Public and was filed on Nov. 19, 1860, and was for the sum of \$400.

The first town lots and blocks were sold and recorded on Nov. 24, 1860, to William Phillips. The next were sold to Peter Stevens and Cornelious Ruggles who had the first store in Neosho Falls. This was on November 27, and on the same day

the rest of the townsite was of Neosho Falls was sold by the Trustees, John Coulter and Allen McCartney, to the Neosho Falls Town Company for the consideration of \$400, and was given a Warrenty Deed for same.

The Civil War and politics along with his medical practice kept Dr. McCartney busy. In the meantime his old Captain, Alex. K. Phelon moved to Neosho Falls about 1865.



Dr. Allen Richard McCartney, as he looked in 1871.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alex K. Phelon was elected as Treasurer of Woodson Co. in election of 1866. Finishing the term as treasurer, Phelon decided to leave Neosho Falls along with Dr. McCartney. At a point near where the present town of Neodesha is located and where the Fall River enters the Verdigris River, was a mound that was given the name of Chief Little Bear's burial mound. Chief Little Bear had died in January, 1867. Dr. McCartney had attended to him the night that he died.

The settlers having a small trading post near this mound had moved on up the Verdigris River, leaving no Indian trading post in Wilson County. To fill this need the two men, both from Indiana, moved from Neosho Falls to the Neodesha area. Here they built a double log cabin at the south end of Little

Bear's burial mound, in which they stocked general merchandise and fitted up an eating place for travelers. The trading post was in operation by mid-October, 1867.

Phelon a married man, built a log cabin near the trading post and brought his family there to live. Phelon operated the store while McCartney, still a U.S. physician to the loyal refugee Indians of Kansas-a post he held during the war-gave his attention mostly to the tribes and the settlers.

Dr. McCartney and Alex Phelon, along with two other early settlers formed a company that would start the town of Neodesha. The main part of the town was started on land, with McCartney as Pres. of the Town Co.

The town was surveyed and started in 1869. A part of the land the town was built on had been purchased from a former Woodson County pioneer. Branson Briles had first settled on and 80 acres claim along the east side of Turkey Creek where it leaves Woodson Co., into Coffey County, in 1857. A few years later Branson Briles sold his claim, we believe to Warren Crandall. The 80 acres is still a part of the Crandall Ranch.

McCartney and Phelon opened the first store in Neodesha at Fourth and Main Streets.

Dr. A. McCartney died at his home in Neodesha June 13, 1907. He had married Amanda Davis, Dec. 1, 1869. Their children were, Herbert, Helen (DeFord), and Fay (Shaw).

\* \* \* \* \*

While the latter part of this story is about the town of Neodesha, the part that Dr. McCartney played in the development of Neosho Falls and Woodson County is worthy of telling about.

When Dr. McCartney was postmaster of Neosho Falls the mail still came to a crude log cabin on the east or far side of the Neosho River, while the town was surveyed on the west side. The post office was not moved to the town side until 1864.

While his doctoring practice was general his main task seemed to be with the different tribes that lived along the Neosho River across to the Verdigris River. However, from the south part of Woodson County across Wilson County was known as the Osage Trust Land. Dr. McCartney's trade and work was mostly with the Great and Little Osage tribes — mostly the latter of which Chief Little Bear was the leader.

## HISTORY OF POSSUM TROT SCHOOL DIST. NO. 67

### Early Day History

The following information was received mostly by letter. Some of those to whom we wrote did not answer. Some of the following were unable to tell us the history of the district but gave us some early day history.

From Mrs. S. E. Baker, Neosho Falls, Kansas.

Mrs. Baker is now 80 years old. She came to Kansas in 1885 from Newton County, Indiana. She saw only one band of Indians and they were being moved from Osage Co., to Oklahoma. By this time the oxen were not being used and had been replaced by horses. Their house was the frame shack of the homesteader. Mrs. Baker thinks that the people were more sociable and friendly then they are today. As to pests and drouths, Mrs. Baker says we have more to contend with now than then.

From Mr. J. C. Cantrell, Topeka, Kansas.

Mr. Cantrell did not locate in Dist. 67 until 1890 and so is not a real old settler. The Dist. was organized and the school-house built before he located here. Religious services of different denominations, Sunday School, and Literary Society were held in the schoolhouse. Mr. Cantrell says that the men and women of those days valued their word and honor more than anything else. Mr. Cantrell was on the school board of Dist. 67 for 12 years.

From Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Chambers, Yates Center, Kansas.

The following is taken directly from Mrs. Chambers letter with a few English corrections.

"Both Mr. Chambers and I were born and raised in Kansas. Concerning the Indians, they were always friendly. We lived in a log house and had to help build them. The tools we used were the axe, broad axe, and auger. Cooking was done in the fireplace and Dutch Oven. Our first means of communication was by Pony Express, then the Star Route. The machinery used was the wooden plow with wooden moldboard, single and double shovel. We used the scythe and cradle to cut the grain and a flayle to thresh. The first school were subscription schools. Church was first held in private homes, then in log schoolhouses. There were vigilant committees for protection. The people all worked together in harmony; building, planting and harvesting crops, etc. The people must needs help each other because there was no money to hire with. Oxen were used altogether because there were no horses. They were yoked together with a long piece of timber made into a yoke to fit their neck. A man walked beside them and taught them "Gee" and "Haw".

From Mrs. A. D. Hearn, Yates Center, Kansas.

The following is Mrs. Hearn's letter to us.

"We have been trying to find out a few things we had forgotten Mr. Hearn did not go to Possum Trot. He went to Fairview and I went to Dutro, but District 67 seems like a part of ours anyway. I came in 1880 and Mr. Hearn in 1883. with the exceptions of the fenced highways and many of the trees gone, things are about the same as then. Of course we had wagons, spring wagons and top-buggies, horses and mules but very few oxen. I never saw a team of oxen working until we were in Arkansas in 1899-1900. The Dutro District or 54, was a large district so District 67 was built and all the pupils living west of the section lines west of Earl Brewer's place went (to District 67) there. There were the Almonds, the Zooks, Westons, Pickering and Goffs. I don't remember the year that 67 was built. As to the Indians, they would travel past the Dutro schoolhouse on horses and ponies and nearly always had one wagon and some old buggies without tops. They tied their little children onto the ponies. They were going to the Indian Territory then. Mrs. Hearn's name before her marriage was Estella Eddy.

From Mrs. Isaac Allen, Neosho Falls, Kansas.

Mrs. Allen's father, the late J. W. Morrow, came to Kansas in 1871, September first, to get a home for himself and his family. They found a good climate and kind people and had no trouble with the Indians. They came from Ohio. Mr. Morrow and his family lived in a claim shanty about 12' x 14' just planked up with a board roof, one window with 6 lights, and a door. The neighbors helped to build the house and they used an ax, a hatchet, and a saw as their building tools. There were no home conveniences and no means of communication excepting by horses. Their machinery consisted of a plow, a harrow, and a hoe. As to their schools, some were held in schoolhouses, some were taught in small claim shanties. There were no church building so church was held in schoolhouses. It seems that there were no drouths, but there was a bad grasshopper invasion. There were quite a few outlaws, some of which were hung. Others were sent to prison. The oxen were used for every thing because there were no horses, and the oxen could stand more work, when the people got their claims all broken out, they then sold or traded their oxen for horses. By patience and kindness, the oxen were trained to haul heavy loads. People helped each other because they had no money with which to hire help. The people all worked together in building homes, roads, schools, churches, and planting and harvesting of crops. Since there were no fence here at that time one had to herd his livestock to keep them out of the fields. The first church that Mrs. Allen remembers was the old Methodist Church at Yates Center in the early 80's. The church was

brought here from Jacksonville IL, by Abner Yates. He gave the church to the people. There were no roads at that time, so when any one was out on a stormy night the neighbors each put a lamp or candle in his window to act as a guide for whomever was out in the storm.

From Mr. George W. Shepherd, Yates Center, Kansas.

Mr. Shepherd came to Kansas from Illinois in 1868. He came to get land to homestead. He first settled in Montgomery County. He homesteaded there and later in 1870 sold out and came to Woodson County. Here he bought a homestead from another man. The first house he built in Kansas was a one room lumber shanty, 18' x 20'. Mr. Shepherd brought quite a few tools to Kansas with him, so he was not so limited as were some other homesteaders. He had saws, hammers, square and broad ax. Mr. Shepherd drove horses through to Kansas, then traded them for oxen. Later he would buy more oxen. He now had 3 yoke. They were used altogether for plowing and work in the fields. The oxen knew their names like horses do. Mr. Shepherd also brought with him a "breaking plow". He was the only one who had such a thing here. It was large and very heavy and could not be easily handled. With this "breaking plow" Mr. Shepherd broke the ground for a great number of homesteaders. In Montgomery County the Indians were pretty thick. Mr. Shepherd grew lots of watermelons and gave the Indians all they wanted. One day Mrs. Shepherd put a lot of big yellow cucumbers upon top of the house to dry for seed. A group of Indians came by and took every seed cucumber on the roof. The next time they came by Mr. Shepherd gave them watermelons and after that he had no trouble with them taking things. When Mr. Shepherd came to this county there was no town at all where Yates Center is now located. All lumber, groceries, etc. had to be hauled from Neosho Falls.

The above was written sometime around 1935-36, but by whom we do not know, but the real history of the school is lacking, as to where it got its name, some of the first teachers and when the first school was held there.

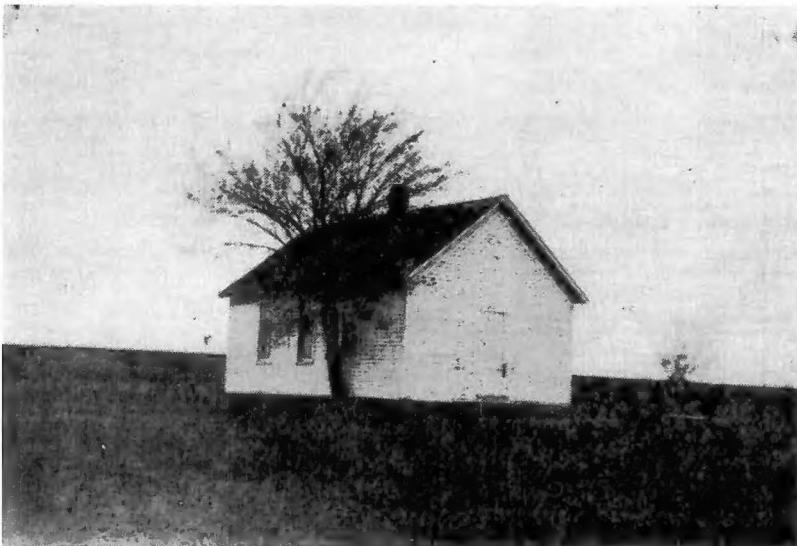
The first teacher we find for Dist. #67, was in 1886. When Cynthia Kemmer taught there in 1886. The next teacher was Otis Dutro and then Lillian Howard, E. E. Gerard, Nezie Bayless. Term starting in October, 1892, was taught by Belle Butler. (The Editor's mother). The following year there was no school at Possum Trot. The next year was taught by Myrtle Morgan, then Flora Ireland, L. N. Tallman, Alfarette Kepple, Edith Goff, two terms. Myrtle Hutchins, Jessie Stocker, Mable Miller, Lois Helsey, Mary E. Wells, two terms; Minnie Bell,

Minnie Hefner. This was the term of 1915-16. No more teachers were listed until 1929 thru 1931, when the teacher was Leota Mulsow. Next teachers were Wilma Roberts, 1933-34, Ethel Pickering, Elizabeth Call, Lora Pauling Fisher, Mrs. Mona McCall, Mrs. Lois Hamilton, who seemed to teach the last term about 1940.

In 1913, the teacher, Mary E. Wells gave her report to the District Clerk, W. H. H. Brewer, listing the following pupils; Merl Weston, Forest Weston, Alice, Lloyd and Stanley Cantrell, Glen Cunningham, Orville and Albert Swan, Charles, Maud and Viola Foss; Earl and Florence Brewer.

The teachers report of 1933, by the teacher Wilma Roberts (Mark), to the clerk, giving the following pupils Evelyn and Paul Wiley, George Chambers and Ava Murphy.

During the 1940 term which evidently the last term at Possum Trot, the following pupils were enrolled; Alice Mae Brewer, Vera Lee Turner, Betty and Elaine Starks, Letha Mae Weston, Eldon, Duane and Junior Weston.



This is the only picture that we could come up with of the Possum Trot schoolhouse, and it was taken several years after school was held there, with the tree growing from the side of it. We were not able to find a picture of pupils and school. This schoolhouse was later moved to the Tom Holly farm, three miles west of Yates Center and used as a shed.

The name 'Possum Trot' evidently came from the small creek that is a branch of Cherry Creek.

## WALTER A. BOWERS —

While not a native of Woodson County or even of the state of Kansas, Walter Bowers was one of the best and greatest boosters Yates Center and Woodson County ever had. Walter did not want any office that might hold him down, but he was a born booster and promoter.

Walter A. Bowers was born in Chicago, Illinois, November 19, 1898. He attended school in Chicago, and graduated from the University of Chicago in 1920. He graduated from the George Washington University, from where he received the Juris Doctor Degree.

He was a veteran of World War I, serving in the U.S. Air Force. Walter worked in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. for several years during World War II.

Walter was by profession, a lawyer, engineer and educator. He was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar in 1937, and the Kansas Bar in 1946, and also to the Supreme Court Bar. Walter was teaching in the Utopia College at Eureka, Kans. in the latter 1940's. While teaching here he met Helen S. Arnold Jones, who was the Register-of-Deeds of Woodson County.

Helen was a native of this county being born and raised here. Her parents were Warren F. and Sarah (Lizzie) Arnold. Helen had taught several terms of school in the rural schools of this county. Helen was married to Earl Jones. They had a son Edward who married Carolyn Clugston. They have three sons.

On August 27, 1949, Walter A. Bowers was married to Helen Arnold Jones. They continued in the Abstract and Real Estate business that Helen had. Walter had a son and four daughters from a previous marriage.

The Abstract business of Helen and Walter was incorporated into the Street Abstract Co., Inc. In 1964, Walter became a Director of this business.

Walter was one of the leaders in the organization of the Woodson County Historical Society. He was selected as one of the first six directors of this society and was still a director at the time of his death. When illness prevented Ray Stoll from serving his second term as president, Walter was selected to be president until the next election. Walter was one of the Charter members and held a Life Membership.

Through the untiring efforts of Walter Bowers, this historical quarterly, IN THE BEGINNING, was greatly helped to be a success. He spent considerable time and money in the promotion.

**Walter A. Bowers came to an untimely death on the morning of November 9, 1973, in a two-car head-on crash on U.S.-54, four miles west of Yates Center. Walter in his car and two men in the other car were killed.**



**Walter A. and Helen S. Bowers. Picture taken about 1943.**

## **ISAAC J. CAMAC and FAMILY —**

Isaac Jesse Camac was born in Randolph County, North Carolina, Nov. 19, 1846. His father was Dixon Camac, who was also a native of North Carolina and of English descent. Isaac was the fifth in a family of eight children.

He was just a boy when the family moved to Windsor, Illinois, where Isaac grew up. When about twenty years old he began learning the trade of harness maker and saddler in Windsor. He worked one year as a journeyman after serving out his apprenticeship.

In Windsor, IL, on April 12, 1868, Isaac J. Camac, was married to Miss Victoria York, a daughter of John York, a native of North Carolina. Isaac and Victoria were the parents of eight children namely-Cora, John, Nettie, Isaac Jr., May, Winnie, Blanche, Bernice, and Katherine.

After farming four years, the Camac family moved to Ottawa, Kansas, where he began business as a dealer in harness and saddlery. In 1884, they moved to Eminence township, Woodson County. They obtained the northeast quarter of Sec. 9, Twp. 26, Range 16.

Isaac J. did not seem to waste much time in getting settled. We believe that he obtained the deed for the quarter section in March, 1884, and the next month on April 4, 1884, Isaac Camac was appointed as postmaster of Rose, although the town of Rose did not exist at that time. Camac kept the post office in his home until the office was discontinued on November 4, 1886, and the mail was sent to Yates Center. After the railroad came through from Coffeyville to Yates Center, the post office of Rose was re-established with another postmaster.

After farming for seven years, the Camac family decided to move to Yates Center in 1891. Here Mr. Camac went to his first occupation for which he was trained—that of a harness shop and saddlery. He purchased the shop formerly owned by Fred Wachtman.

Shortly before selling his farm and moving to Yates Center, Mr. Camac sold an acre of land in the northeast corner of his farm to the trustees of a Methodist church. 1888 no church was built there, but later land was sold and the church was built at Rose.

Not long after coming to Yates Center, I. J. Camac was elected as Mayor of Yates Center in 1894 for one term.

Both Wm. Patterson and wife Cora Camac, were members of the organizational Board of Trustees of the Rose church.



Picture of the Camac Family, Taken in August, 1901 — Back row, left to right. Nettie, Cora, Isaac Jesse, Jr., Winnifred, Blanche. Front row - Mae Victoria Isaac, Sr., John Katharina Maria

The Harness, Saddlery and Leather Shop of Isaac J. Camac, on the west side of the square in Yates Center.

The man with the handle-bar mustache standing in the front of the usual harness shop horse and the cat "Tom" on the show case is I. J. Camac. The person leaning on the saddle is unknown. The trough-like box holding several buggy whips, the two gas lights hanging from the ceiling would seem rather dim now.

\* \* \* \* \*

The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Isaac and Victoria. Cora Leigh was born in Windsor, Illinois, Dec. 15, 1868. On Sept. 22, 1886, she was married to William Madison Patterson, a native of Paveshick Co. Iowa, coming to Woodson Co. with his parents in 1866, settling at Rose. They were parents of two children, Earle Thomas, born July 19, 1889 at Rose. And Lois Thelma, born at Rose, April 26, 1901. Earle was married to Helen Scott, October 18, 1916. They had one son, William Thomas Patterson, born March 22, 1921. He married Rae Foss. Wm. M. Patterson and son Earle operated the first garage in Yates Center.

Lois Patterson was married April 5, 1924, to James Willard Humphrey, at Berkley, Calif. He was born in Wilmington, Delaware. They were the parents of two children Elizabeth Leigh, born March 20, 1928, and Allen J. Humphrey, born Aug. 5, 1933. Both children born in Berkley, Calif.

John Dixon Camac was born March 4, 1871, and died Jan. 26, 1964. He was married to Jennie Leonard, Dec. 30, 1891. They had two daughters, Ethel and Dorothy Mae, both being born at Rose, Kansas, Ethel Jane on Dec. 14, 1899, and was married Feb. 20, 1920, to James S. Rogers. Dorothy Mae Camac was married to James T. Ogle in Salina, Kansas, Oct. 11, 1922.

Nettie Maud Camac was born May 8, 1873, and married in 1889, to William Nathan Hartshorn. They were the parents of five children. The first three were boys Ray, Jesse and Harold. They were all born at Ottawa, Kansas, and never married. Helen Mae was born at Rose, Sept. 13, 1904, and married Stewart Peutz. They had no children. Winnifred also born at Rose, in 1907. They had no children.

Isaac Jesse, Jr. was born March 23, 1876, and died in Phoenix, Arizona, Oct. 7, 1908. He was married to Mary Edith Dutro, April 15, 1901. They had no children.

Anna May, born April 30, 1878. On June 14, 1905 she was married to Ernest Thane Schuler. They both died in Wichita in 1963 and are buried in the Yates Center Cemetery. They were the parents of one child, a daughter Muriel, who was born November 27, 1910, she was married to Cecil Gettings. They had two children, Carole and Kenneth.

Winnifred (Winnie), who was born November 3, 1880, in Ottawa, Kansas. On April 14, 1906, Winnifred was married to Harry Scott Spencer. They were the parents of three children, twins-Howard Camac and Harold Ferdinand, being born on the 8th day of April, 1908. And Margaret Winnifred who was born November 10, 1916, and died January 9, 1921, just four years and two months old.

Howard C. was married to Helen Louise Mertz, August 30, 1933, in Yates Center. They had one child, Howard Scott Spencer, born May 5, 1945. Harold F. was married to Margaret Frances Patton. They had two children Sharon, born March 6, 1943, and John Harold, born December 1, 1947. Dr. Harold F. Spencer was a practicing medical doctor died May 27, 1962, in Kansas City, Kansas, and buried in Emporia, where he lived.

Blanche Victoria was born October 23, 1883, and died October 2, 1919, at the age of 36 years. She never married.

Bernice E. born May 9, 1887 and died November 29, 1887.

Katherine Marie Camac was born June 28, 1890. She married Charles Freeman Martin on October 25, 1916. They had one child, Charles Freeman Martin Jr. Freeman Martin died July 19, 1956. Katherine married Henry G. Roethel on October 7, 1966. Henry died November 18, 1973. Katherine died October 21, 1976. Charles Freeman Martin Jr. married Elouise E. West on August 31, 1941. They had two children, Kay Jean and Langley Charles. Elouise died September 5, 1977. Charles married Phyllis Hanson Russell on December 30, 1979.

Kay Jean married Robert L. Brown on October 21, 1962. They have two children R. C. and Janene Kay.

Langley Charles married Sue E. Worley on June 25, 1972. They have two children J. L. and Abigail Louise.

## HISTORY OF CLEAR SPRING DIST. NO. 46

District No. 46 was organized and the first schoolhouse was built in 1873 and was called Clear Spring from the springs just across the road on Section 19 in Everett Twp.

The schoolhouse was built just west of the Liberty and Everett Twp. line on the ground where it now stands on the land owned by a German man named Gustave Shriver. The first schoolhouse was built by Able Woodruff of Kalida and Steven Ward just south of the schoolhouse. It was built entirely of soft pine, seats, desks and all.

The patrons of the dist. were Andrew Wilson, Wright Deoncaws, Steven Wards, Mr. Dyes, Mr. Golsten, Mr. Blevens, Ike Connett, W. J. May, D.C. Bennetts, W.H. Baguss, Wm. Landers, R.L. Curries, Gustave Shriver, Simon Fricka, John Erryican, H. Peden, and another family that I do not know the name of, but one of the daughter's afterwards married Johnathan Davis who a few years ago was Governor of Kansas.

W.H. Bangness, Andrew Wilson, Steven Ward, Mr. Golsten and D.C. Bennett were all Veterans of the Civil War, Mr. Wilson also was in the 19th Kans. in the Indian War.

The first schoolhouse was only 16 x 24 ft. in size and often had from 35 to 55 pupils enrolled, so you see it was sure a full house. The first teacher was Miss Lou Rhea a sister of Robert Rhea of Dry Creek. Other old time teachers were Anna Reed, now Mrs. Prisson of Burlington, Kansas. Jose Wolfe, C.C. Clevenger, Hugh Prather, Ella Ellis, a sister of Lucy Ellis of Yates Center. Amelia Dutro, Lizzie Funston, who became Mrs. Frejner Agnew and now lives in California. T.J. Bell of Yates Center, Elizabeth Spencer, and many others of recent date.

The present schoolhouse was built I think in 1886. The stone work was done by Bruce Prathes and J.T. Summers and the carpenter work was done by Edd Currie who was a brother of R.L. Currie of the dist. when the new schoolhouse was built. The old one was bought by James Moore, a man who had moved into the dist. a short time before and had built a small house a mile north of the schoolhouse. He moved the schoolhouse up to his place and used it as an additional to his dwelling until a few years later the house caught fire and burned down. To the best of my knowledge all of the original settlers of the dist. has passed on. Mr. and Mrs. Currie being next to the last. They passed away 5 or 6 years ago at their daughter's near Lane, Kansas. The last one was Grandma Fricka who died

at the home of her youngest daughter Lena on the old home place at the age of 92 years.

The writer of this wants to add that this little old German woman was a great friend of ours, always smiling, pleasant and kind. A woman whose friends were numbered by her acquaintance. There is left living in the dist. of the sons and daughters of the original settlers, just three. Mrs. Anna Fricka-Toedman, Mrs. Lena Fricka-Toedman and the writer of this article.

Andrew Wilson's children own the old home place, with other land in Dist. 46-37. Lena Fricka-Toedman owns the old Fricka and Shultz places. Anna Fricka-Toedman owns the old R.L. Currie place. And the Henson Bros. owns 200 acres of the old W.J. May place. They are grand nephews of W.J. May.

The people of this dist. have always been peaceful quiet law abiding citizens, people that have been a pleasure to live among and neighbor with, people we will go loving to the end of time. The people of this dist. have never been office holders nor seekers. A granddaughter of W.H. Banguss, Miss Cecil Davidon was Co. Supt., but to the best of my recollection is the only one.

Teachers down through the years commencing in 1881, with perhaps some missing are,-Josie Wolfe, 2 terms, Lizzie Funston, C.C. Clevenger, T.J. Bell, 1886; E.H. Prather, M.J. Dutro, Ella Ellis, S.E. Ellis, Lizzie Spencer, Ada Prutzman, 2 terms, Mabel Rose, Louis Weide, John Markham, Ethel Rose, Ella Ellis, Aljanetta Kepple, Effie Davidson, 2 terms; Agnes Knapp, Evelyn Gildersleeve, Ruth McCormick, Jennie Bennett, C.O. Brooks, Hazel McCormic, 1912-13; two terms; Clara Keske, Helen McCormick, Veva Jeffries, Mary Bell, Ollie Meyers Mabe, Georgis Kelly, Gladys Kesterson.

Nellie Byfield, Myrtle Ruth, Lucille Toedman, Helen Mook, four terms; Belva Murphy, Cleo Theobald, 3 terms; Elinor Cole, Pearl Briles, Edna Mae Weide, 2 terms; Walter Robertson, Ethel Thomas, Rachel Millson, 2 terms; Dale Cogan, Sophia Tannahil, 5 terms; Grace Griffith, 2 terms; Esther Knotta, Charlene Hatch, 2 terms; and what seems to be the last term was 1952, was taught by Leafie Kincaid.

\* \* \* \* \*

A teachers report to the District Clerk for one-teacher schools were given by the teacher Cleo Theobald, for Clear Springs, Dist. #46, covering from Sept. 5, 1932 until April 21, 1933, with the following pupil enrolled.

Helen and Freda Wilson, Leo and Gordon Stockebrand, Ralph, Lu and Jane Culver.

Pupils going to his school in 1922 were - Delyte and Jessie Fry, Estol Follis, Louis, Belba, Earl and Norma Murphy, with Gladys Kesterson (Krueger) as teacher.

\* \* \* \* \*

The term ending June 30, 1913, taught by Hazel McCormick, and given to the District Clerk, S.E. Richards gave the following pupils enrolled; Reva and Velma Byfields, Charles, Otis and David Brooks; Irvin, Mary, William and Minnis Fortner; Eddie, Freddie, and Mary Markham; George Pickering, Olive, Thomas and Ada Richards; Neal and Glenn Toedman, Roy, Kate, Walter, Henrietta and June Wolford.



The above picture was taken at the last day of school at Clear Springs. Many of the pupils listed above and on proceeding page are in the picture, but not enough were identified to make a list of names.



Picture of pupils going to Clear Springs, term 1932-33 with Cleo Theobald as teacher. The back row in picture are, Jane Culver, Leo Stockebrand, Carl Stephens, Gordon Stockebrand, Ralph Culver.-front row-Freda Wilson, Georgia and Alice Stephens, Clara Hodge, Leo Culver.

## THURLOW LIEURANCE —

A very well known musician and composer of music was Thurlow Lieurance, who was born at Oskaloosa, Iowa, March 21st, 1878. His father was Dr. A.J. Lieurance, one of the first graduates of Penn College. His mother was Hattie Lippard.

Sometime in 1886, when Thurlow was eight years old the Lieurance family moved to Neosho Falls, Woodson County Kansas. Dr. Lieurance did considerable medical practice in the Neosho Falls area. His mode of transportation was by horseback. Several years ago the editor saw his saddle bags full of small vials or bottles that contained his supply of medicine.

Here on the banks of the Neosho River he attended school. In 1898, when the Spanish American War broke out Thurlow enlistd in the 20th Kansas Infantry. That same year, John W. Leedy of Neosho Falls, and Governor of Kansas, appointed Thurlow as Chief Musician of his company.

After serving till the end of that war he was mustered out at Ft. Leavenworth. Returning to Neosho Falls he found that he had saved \$400 from his army service, and this enrolled at the College of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio. After his little savings had been spent on a meager musical education, he studied instruction in orchestration, harmony theory and arranging music. In 1900, Thurlow sang in the chorus of the Castle Square Opera Company, for the purpose of obtaining some knowledge of opera and its production. Afterwards he taught piano and voice in Neosho Falls, Fredonia, Cherryvale & Chanute. Tired of teaching he returned to his home in Neosho Falls.

Soon after his return he somehow injured his spine in some unknown manner and left him handicapped the rest of his life, needing a cane and a crutch and braces on his leg.

Thurlow then dedicated himself to translating into lovely, tuneful music ages-old stories of the American Indian. He was considered an expert on Indian lore and tribal dances. During 1912, he made visits to see his brother, Dr. Edward L. Lieurance, who was an administer on a Crow Indian reservation in Montana. For years he visited and lived with various Indian tribes. He recorded many songs and tribal dances.

While traveling between the Crow and Cheyenne Indian Reservations in Montana, Thurlow again injured his leg very badly, but did not stop him in his endeavor as a writer and composer.

"By the Waters of Minnetonka" seemed to be the magic

piece in the career of Thurlow as a composer. Forty-five different recordings of it have been made. Contributing to the writing of "By the Waters of Minnetonka" was a visit Thurlow made in 1911 to the Crow reservation in Montana when he was inspired by a Sioux love song, chanted by a young brave named Sitting Eagle.

On April 7th, 1917, Thurlow Lieurance was married to Edna Wooley, at Omaha, Neb. She was a lyric soprano and the two of them had been members of the Charles F. Horner Redpath Lyceum Bureau. Later she and Thurlow lectured on Indian music and Miss Wooley interpreted the theme he had set to modern music.

Thurlow and Edna Lieurance had one son Thurlow Lieurance, Jr. In 1947 they came back to Neosho Falls and purchased the old same brick house. The 1951 flood was responsible for them leaving Neosho Falls for the last time, moving to Boulder, Colo., where he died October 9, 1963 at the age of 85 years. He is buried at Boulder.



Picture of Thurlow Lieurance

## EMIGRANT AID — by Charles B. Graves.

(In the October issue of IN THE BEGINNING we had the story that Charles B. Graves had written about the Great Drouth of 1860. This is a follow up of the events of the early settlers in Woodson and some in Coffey County.)

In 1860, when preparations were being made for the distribution among the people, of the "aid" contributed for that purpose, agents were being appointed in each neighborhood to receive and distribute the aid for that locality. My father, Pusey Graves, was appointed distributor for our neighborhood.

He was elected Member of the Legislature that fall and before opening of the session he went to Atchinson to arrange for the supplies needed in our vicinity. He ascertained that each locality would be compelled to furnish its own transportation. His was the only horse team in the neighborhood, and he had that with him. Before he was ready to return home one of the horses was disabled and rendered unfit for service. The remaining horse he hitched to a one-horse wagon loaned to him and came home, leaving the injured horse with a farmer to be cared for.

After a short visit home he returned with the one horse conveyance to remain during the session of the Legislature.

After this the responsibilities of Distributor, seemed by common consent to have fallen upon me, and although a mere boy (18 years), I accepted the situation. The only means of transportation remaining was a yoke of oxen, belonging to one of the neighbors, which he offered to anyone who would go to Atchinson for a load of supplies. He had no wagon. The men in the vicinity were old and frail and unfit for such a trip. I seemed to be the most suitable person and was selected to go. I had managed horses all of my life but had no experience what ever with oxen. I walked five miles to another neighborhood and borrowed an ox-wagon, and was soon ready to start. About this time a train of several wagons had arranged to go together, and I concluded to accompany them. We started together from LeRoy. On Christmas evening we camped on the Marias de Cygnes just east of where the passenger depot now stands in North Ottawa.

I had the only ox team in the train, but it was well broken, traveled well, and knew what to do without being told. I was very much pleased with it. The next day was warm, cloudy and foggy. We went directly to Lawrence, crossed the river on a ferry, and camped in the timber. The Legislature was in session there, having moved down from LeCompton so as to have more comfortable quarters, and I got some money from my

father to pay expenses of my trip. Jim Lane with his notorious fur coat was everywhere and seemed to know everyone. He seemed too, to be in a highly good humor, as his wife had given birth to twin boys which were promptly named Lincoln and Hamblin respectively. During the night it began to snow; in the morning the ground was covered. We started for Oskaloosa and traveled on the ridge road. We were soon unable to keep in the road, except by a narrow fringe of grass which had grown between the wagon road and the Indian trail, which the road followed and had escaped being burned during the regular annual prairie fire. By this means we were able to follow the road all day. This road was located on an Indian Reservation, and no settlers were in sight.

About dusk, with the snow about eight inches deep, and hard traveling, we held a conference and concluded to turn out, and drop down into a deep ravine, where there was some timber and camp. This we did - we found some dry limbs and built a fire. The log was against the hill, so we had to stand on the downhill side of it, and the wind blew the smoke in our faces. The other parties soon went to bed in their wagons. I had walked with the oxen and did not notice that my blankets were exposed to the snow, and being too wet for use. I was compelled to sit up by the fire all night. I kept out of the smoke as much as possible, but my eyes suffered so that I could scarcely see in the morning. The sun arose clear and the dazzling brightness rended me practicely blind. I got my oxen started and followed them. They kept up with the train, and I got along very well. That night we stopped at a farmer's house where there was a typical backwood's fireplace and fire and we were given full access to it. We had our suppers of coffee, bacon and corn bread and then began to dry our wet garments and blankets. My eyes were much improved but not very useful. There was an old lady there who discovered that I was unduly awkward and rather boyish for such business and out of the kindness of her motherly heart came to my assistance and helped me dry my blankets, giving them the best position before the fire. I was soon as comfortable as if I had not been out in the snow. I have always felt grateful for her kindness and regretted many times that I did not obtain her name, so that I might in some tangible manner assure her of my appreciation for her kindness.

It turned cold so that the next morning the wagon wheels made music as they rolled in the snow. We met many wagons returning from Atchinson loaded, and every farm-house along the road seemed to be a public camping ground.

We reached the office of S.C. Pomroy about the middle of the afternoon; it was crowded with people from all over the State who had come for supplies to take to their neighbors. Pomroy was standing on a box telling how it was expected the supplies should be distributed, so that the relief would go to the needy, and not go into the hands of those who were merely greedy.

One of our crowd who had more money than I, invited me to go with him to a restaurant, there we had a square meal of boiled beef and cabbage with potatoes and "white wheat bread", I do not remember what it cost, but judging its quality, it was cheap at any price! In the evening we visited the "soup house" where beans, bean-soup, bacon and bakers bread were kept on hands free, all the time. Wash boiler on cook-stoves were full of this kind of food and it was partaken of in great quantities. People coming from all over the Territory after "Aid", and who were unable to do better, went to this soup-house and were fed. The number of its patrons may be inferred from the fact that when we were there, the floor was covered with at least an inch of frozen dirt, that had been carried in on the feet of those who had visited it, and was tramped over until it became as hard and smooth as a floor could be made in that way. There was scarcely a county in the Territory at that time which could not furnish several people who contributed to the covering of that floor.

The next morning I met Rev. J.M. Rankin, who had been my school teacher in Illinois. He with another were in charge of supplies which were being contributed and distributed by the churches. He superintended the loading of my wagon giving me a variety of supplies. — Flour, meal, beans and clothing, we started home; our teams could not keep together so we became separated.

The snow was about eighteen inches deep at Atchinson, but only about six inches at LeRoy. The weather continued cold; some of the teamsters fed their horses out of their supplies, which reduced the amount quite rapidly. I bought feed whenever I could, thereby fed less than a sack of corn meal. At Mineral Point in Anderson County, all of the teams left me but one. In the morning the driver said to me, "I believe I can get home tonight, and shall try to do so, it will be hard work for you, so you had better not try to keep up with me". The snow was about six inches at LeRoy, which I reached about sunset. The weather was clear and very pleasant for winter. I was within ten miles of home, my oxen were in good spirits, and seemed anxious to go. I crossed the Neosho River on the Ox Bow Bend Road, and found it well broken. *(To be Continued)*

**PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Brown's Western Auto	Lynn and Gail Cantrell
Milton & Virginia Schornick	Gaulding Oil Co.
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand	Donald E. Ward
John V. Glades Agency	Clyde Hill
Street Abstract Co., Inc.	Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell
State Exchange Bank	Edwin H. Bideau Assoc.
Self Service Grocery	Agencies-Chanute
Krueger Variety & Dry Goods	First National Bank-Toronto
Piqua Farmer's Co-op	Hi-Way Food Basket
Morton Equipment Co.	Atkin Clinic
Swope & Son Implement Co.	Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.	Yates Center Elevator
The Herring Families	Jaspers Shopping Spot
Cantrell Hay Co.,	Daly Western Supply
Craig Cantrell	Linde Barber Shop
Artex Manufacturing Co.	Campbell Plmg. & Electric
J. C. Schnell	Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent
Wilma Mark	Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Yates Center News	Jaynes Insurance Agency
Gambles Hardware &	Glenn Shaw
Home Furnishings	Elmer E. Light
Pringle Ranch -	Milton & Marcella Wrampe
J. Richard Pringle	Loren & Rita Cantrell
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy	Al's Jewelry
Campbell Funeral Home	Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO
Glen & Zola Baker	Rex Butler, Nashville, TN
Piqua State Bank	Thomas Wilson
Ken Kimbell	Bill Herman
Steiner's Sundries	Kenneth & Mabelle Ferree
C. L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews	

